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# Search for $\eta_b$ in two-photon collisions at LEP II with the DELPHI detector

DELPHI Collaboration

J. Abdallah<sup>ac</sup>, P. Abreu<sup>z</sup>, W. Adam<sup>bf</sup>, P. Adzic<sup>o</sup>, T. Albrecht<sup>u</sup>, T. Alderweireld<sup>b,c,d</sup>,  
 R. Alemany-Fernandez<sup>l</sup>, T. Allmendinger<sup>u</sup>, P.P. Allport<sup>aa</sup>, U. Amaldi<sup>ag</sup>, N. Amapane<sup>ay</sup>, S. Amato<sup>bc</sup>,  
 E. Anashkin<sup>an</sup>, A. Andreazza<sup>af</sup>, S. Andringa<sup>z</sup>, N. Anjos<sup>z</sup>, P. Antilogus<sup>ac</sup>, W.-D. Apel<sup>u</sup>, Y. Arnoud<sup>r</sup>,  
 S. Ask<sup>ad</sup>, B. Asman<sup>ax</sup>, J.E. Augustin<sup>ac</sup>, A. Augustinus<sup>l</sup>, P. Baillon<sup>l</sup>, A. Ballestrero<sup>az</sup>, P. Bambade<sup>x</sup>,  
 R. Barbier<sup>ae</sup>, D. Bardin<sup>t</sup>, G.J. Barker<sup>u</sup>, A. Baroncelli<sup>aq</sup>, M. Battaglia<sup>l</sup>, M. Baubillier<sup>ac</sup>,  
 K.-H. Becks<sup>bh</sup>, M. Begalli<sup>h,i,j</sup>, A. Behrmann<sup>bh</sup>, E. Ben-Haim<sup>x</sup>, N. Benekos<sup>aj</sup>, A. Benvenuti<sup>g</sup>,  
 C. Berat<sup>r</sup>, M. Berggren<sup>ac</sup>, L. Berntzon<sup>ax</sup>, D. Bertrand<sup>b,c,d</sup>, M. Besancon<sup>ar</sup>, N. Besson<sup>ar</sup>, D. Bloch<sup>m</sup>,  
 M. Blom<sup>ai</sup>, M. Bluj<sup>bg</sup>, M. Bonesini<sup>ag</sup>, M. Boonekamp<sup>ar</sup>, P.S.L. Booth<sup>aa</sup>, G. Borisov<sup>y</sup>, O. Botner<sup>bd</sup>,  
 B. Bouquet<sup>x</sup>, T.J.V. Bowcock<sup>aa</sup>, I. Boyko<sup>t</sup>, M. Bracko<sup>au,av,aw</sup>, R. Brenner<sup>bd</sup>, E. Brodet<sup>am</sup>,  
 P. Bruckman<sup>v</sup>, J.M. Brunet<sup>k</sup>, P. Buschmann<sup>bh</sup>, M. Calvi<sup>ag</sup>, T. Camporesi<sup>l</sup>, V. Canale<sup>ap</sup>, F. Carena<sup>l</sup>,  
 N. Castro<sup>z</sup>, F. Cavallo<sup>g</sup>, M. Chapkin<sup>at</sup>, Ph. Charpentier<sup>l</sup>, P. Checchia<sup>an</sup>, R. Chierici<sup>l</sup>,  
 P. Chliapnikov<sup>at</sup>, J. Chudoba<sup>l</sup>, S.U. Chung<sup>l</sup>, K. Cieslik<sup>v</sup>, P. Collins<sup>l</sup>, R. Contri<sup>q</sup>, G. Cosme<sup>x</sup>,  
 F. Cossutti<sup>ba,bb</sup>, M.J. Costa<sup>be</sup>, D. Crennell<sup>ao</sup>, J. Cuevas<sup>al</sup>, J. D'Hondt<sup>b,c,d</sup>, J. Dalmau<sup>ax</sup>, T. da Silva<sup>bc</sup>,  
 W. Da Silva<sup>ac</sup>, G. Della Ricca<sup>ba,bb</sup>, A. De Angelis<sup>ba,bb</sup>, W. De Boer<sup>u</sup>, C. De Clercq<sup>b,c,d</sup>,  
 B. De Lotto<sup>ba,bb</sup>, N. De Maria<sup>ay</sup>, A. De Min<sup>an</sup>, L. de Paula<sup>bc</sup>, L. Di Ciaccio<sup>ap</sup>, A. Di Simone<sup>aq</sup>,  
 K. Doroba<sup>bg</sup>, J. Drees<sup>bh,l</sup>, G. Eigen<sup>f</sup>, T. Ekelof<sup>bd</sup>, M. Ellert<sup>bd</sup>, M. Elsing<sup>l</sup>, M.C. Espirito Santo<sup>z</sup>,  
 G. Fanourakis<sup>o</sup>, D. Fassouliotis<sup>o,e</sup>, M. Feindt<sup>u</sup>, J. Fernandez<sup>as</sup>, A. Ferrer<sup>be</sup>, F. Ferro<sup>q</sup>,  
 U. Flagmeyer<sup>bh</sup>, H. Foeth<sup>l</sup>, E. Fokitis<sup>aj</sup>, F. Fulda-Quenzer<sup>x</sup>, J. Fuster<sup>be</sup>, M. Gandelman<sup>bc</sup>,  
 C. Garcia<sup>be</sup>, Ph. Gavillet<sup>l</sup>, E. Gazis<sup>aj</sup>, R. Gokieli<sup>l,bg</sup>, B. Golob<sup>au,av,aw</sup>, G. Gomez-Ceballos<sup>as</sup>,  
 P. Goncalves<sup>z</sup>, E. Graziani<sup>aq</sup>, G. Grosdidier<sup>x</sup>, K. Grzelak<sup>bg</sup>, J. Guy<sup>ao</sup>, C. Haag<sup>u</sup>, A. Hallgren<sup>bd</sup>,  
 K. Hamacher<sup>bh</sup>, K. Hamilton<sup>am</sup>, S. Haug<sup>ak</sup>, F. Hauler<sup>u</sup>, V. Hedberg<sup>ad</sup>, M. Hennecke<sup>u</sup>, H. Herr<sup>l,x</sup>,  
 J. Hoffman<sup>bg</sup>, S.-O. Holmgren<sup>ax</sup>, P.J. Holt<sup>l</sup>, M.A. Houlden<sup>aa</sup>, K. Hultqvist<sup>ax</sup>, J.N. Jackson<sup>aa</sup>,  
 G. Jarlskog<sup>ad</sup>, P. Jarry<sup>ar</sup>, D. Jeans<sup>am</sup>, E.K. Johansson<sup>ax</sup>, P.D. Johansson<sup>ax</sup>, P. Jonsson<sup>ae</sup>, C. Joram<sup>l</sup>,  
 L. Jungermann<sup>u</sup>, F. Kapusta<sup>ac</sup>, S. Katsanevas<sup>ae</sup>, E. Katsoufis<sup>aj</sup>, G. Kernel<sup>au,av,aw</sup>,  
 B.P. Kersevan<sup>l,au,av,aw</sup>, U. Kerzel<sup>u</sup>, B.T. King<sup>aa</sup>, N.J. Kjaer<sup>l</sup>, P. Kluit<sup>ai</sup>, P. Kokkinias<sup>o</sup>,  
 C. Kourkoumelis<sup>e</sup>, O. Kouznetsov<sup>t</sup>, Z. Krumstein<sup>t</sup>, M. Kucharczyk<sup>v</sup>, J. Lamsa<sup>a</sup>, G. Leder<sup>bf</sup>,  
 F. Ledroit<sup>r</sup>, L. Leinonen<sup>ax</sup>, R. Leitner<sup>ah</sup>, J. Lemonne<sup>b,c,d</sup>, V. Lepeltier<sup>x</sup>, T. Lesiak<sup>v</sup>, W. Liebig<sup>bh</sup>,  
 D. Liko<sup>bf</sup>, A. Lipniacka<sup>ax</sup>, J.H. Lopes<sup>bc</sup>, J.M. Lopez<sup>al</sup>, D. Loukas<sup>o</sup>, P. Lutz<sup>ar</sup>, L. Lyons<sup>am</sup>,  
 J. MacNaughton<sup>bf</sup>, A. Malek<sup>bh</sup>, S. Maltezos<sup>aj</sup>, F. Mandl<sup>bf</sup>, J. Marco<sup>as</sup>, R. Marco<sup>as</sup>, B. Marechal<sup>bc</sup>,  
 M. Margoni<sup>an</sup>, J.-C. Marin<sup>l</sup>, C. Mariotti<sup>l</sup>, A. Markou<sup>o</sup>, C. Martinez-Rivero<sup>as</sup>, J. Masik<sup>p</sup>,  
 N. Mastroiannopoulos<sup>o</sup>, F. Matorras<sup>as</sup>, C. Matteuzzi<sup>ag</sup>, F. Mazzucato<sup>an</sup>, M. Mazzucato<sup>an</sup>,  
 R. McNulty<sup>aa</sup>, C. Meroni<sup>af</sup>, E. Migliore<sup>ay</sup>, W. Mitaroff<sup>bf</sup>, U. Mjoernmark<sup>ad</sup>, T. Moa<sup>ax</sup>, M. Moch<sup>u</sup>,  
 K. Moenig<sup>l,n</sup>, R. Monge<sup>q</sup>, J. Montenegro<sup>ai</sup>, D. Moraes<sup>bc</sup>, S. Moreno<sup>z</sup>, P. Morettini<sup>q</sup>, U. Mueller<sup>bh</sup>,  
 K. Muenich<sup>bh</sup>, M. Mulders<sup>ai</sup>, L. Mundim<sup>h,i,j</sup>, W. Murray<sup>ao</sup>, B. Muryn<sup>w</sup>, G. Myatt<sup>am</sup>,  
 T. Myklebust<sup>ak</sup>, M. Nassiakou<sup>o</sup>, F. Navarria<sup>g</sup>, K. Nawrocki<sup>bg</sup>, R. Nicolaidou<sup>ar</sup>, M. Nikolenko<sup>t,m</sup>,

A. Oblakowska-Mucha<sup>w</sup>, V. Obraztsov<sup>at</sup>, A. Olshevski<sup>t</sup>, A. Onofre<sup>z</sup>, R. Orava<sup>s</sup>, K. Osterberg<sup>s</sup>,  
 A. Ouraou<sup>ar</sup>, A. Oyanguren<sup>be</sup>, M. Paganoni<sup>ag</sup>, S. Paiano<sup>g</sup>, J.P. Palacios<sup>aa</sup>, H. Palka<sup>v</sup>,  
 Th.D. Papadopoulou<sup>aj</sup>, L. Pape<sup>l</sup>, C. Parkes<sup>ab</sup>, F. Parodi<sup>q</sup>, U. Parzefall<sup>l</sup>, A. Passeri<sup>aq</sup>, O. Passon<sup>bh</sup>,  
 L. Peralta<sup>z</sup>, V. Perepelitsa<sup>be</sup>, A. Perrotta<sup>g</sup>, A. Petrolini<sup>q</sup>, J. Piedra<sup>as</sup>, L. Pieri<sup>aq</sup>, F. Pierre<sup>ar</sup>,  
 M. Pimenta<sup>z</sup>, E. Piotto<sup>l</sup>, T. Podobnik<sup>au,av,aw</sup>, V. Poireau<sup>l</sup>, M.E. Pol<sup>h,i,j</sup>, G. Polok<sup>v</sup>, V. Pozdniakov<sup>t</sup>,  
 N. Pukhaeva<sup>b,c,d,t</sup>, A. Pullia<sup>ag</sup>, J. Rames<sup>p</sup>, A. Read<sup>ak</sup>, P. Rebecchi<sup>l</sup>, J. Rehn<sup>u</sup>, D. Reid<sup>ai</sup>,  
 R. Reinhardt<sup>bh</sup>, P. Renton<sup>am</sup>, F. Richard<sup>x</sup>, J. Ridky<sup>p</sup>, M. Rivero<sup>as</sup>, D. Rodriguez<sup>as</sup>, A. Romero<sup>ay</sup>,  
 P. Ronchese<sup>an</sup>, P. Roudeau<sup>x</sup>, T. Rovelli<sup>g</sup>, V. Ruhlmann-Kleider<sup>ar</sup>, D. Ryabtchikov<sup>at</sup>, A. Sadovsky<sup>t</sup>,  
 L. Salmi<sup>s</sup>, J. Salt<sup>be</sup>, C. Sander<sup>u</sup>, A. Savoy-Navarro<sup>ac</sup>, U. Schwickerath<sup>l</sup>, A. Segar<sup>am,\*</sup>, R. Sekulin<sup>ao</sup>,  
 M. Siebel<sup>bh</sup>, A. Sisakian<sup>t</sup>, G. Smadja<sup>ae</sup>, O. Smirnova<sup>ad</sup>, A. Sokolov<sup>at</sup>, A. Sopczak<sup>y</sup>,  
 R. Sosnowski<sup>bg</sup>, T. Spassov<sup>l</sup>, M. Stanitzki<sup>u</sup>, A. Stocchi<sup>x,\*</sup>, J. Strauss<sup>bf</sup>, B. Stugu<sup>f</sup>,  
 M. Szczekowski<sup>bg</sup>, M. Szeptycka<sup>bg</sup>, T. Szumlak<sup>w</sup>, T. Tabarelli<sup>ag</sup>, A.C. Taffard<sup>aa</sup>, F. Tegenfeldt<sup>bd</sup>,  
 J. Timmermans<sup>ai</sup>, L. Tkatchev<sup>t</sup>, M. Tobin<sup>aa</sup>, S. Todorovova<sup>p</sup>, B. Tome<sup>z</sup>, A. Tonazzo<sup>ag</sup>, P. Tortosa<sup>be</sup>,  
 P. Travnicek<sup>p</sup>, D. Treille<sup>l</sup>, G. Tristram<sup>k</sup>, M. Trochimczuk<sup>bg</sup>, C. Troncon<sup>af</sup>, M.-L. Turluer<sup>ar</sup>,  
 I.A. Tyapkin<sup>t</sup>, P. Tyapkin<sup>t</sup>, S. Tzamarias<sup>o</sup>, V. Uvarov<sup>at</sup>, G. Valenti<sup>g</sup>, P. Van Dam<sup>ai</sup>, J. Van Eldik<sup>l</sup>,  
 N. van Remortel<sup>s</sup>, I. Van Vulpen<sup>l</sup>, G. Vegni<sup>af</sup>, F. Veloso<sup>z</sup>, W. Venus<sup>ao</sup>, P. Verdier<sup>ae</sup>, V. Verzi<sup>ap</sup>,  
 D. Vilanova<sup>ar</sup>, L. Vitale<sup>ba,bb</sup>, V. Vrba<sup>p</sup>, H. Wahlen<sup>bh</sup>, A.J. Washbrook<sup>aa</sup>, C. Weiser<sup>u</sup>, D. Wicke<sup>l</sup>,  
 J. Wickens<sup>b,c,d</sup>, G. Wilkinson<sup>am</sup>, M. Winter<sup>m</sup>, M. Witek<sup>v</sup>, O. Yushchenko<sup>at</sup>, A. Zalewska<sup>v</sup>,  
 P. Zalewski<sup>bg</sup>, D. Zavrtanik<sup>au,av,aw</sup>, V. Zhuravlov<sup>t</sup>, N.I. Zimin<sup>t</sup>, A. Zintchenko<sup>t</sup>, M. Zupan<sup>o</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3160, USA

<sup>b</sup> Physics Department, Universiteit Antwerpen, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Antwerpen, Belgium

<sup>c</sup> IIHE, ULB-VUB, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

<sup>d</sup> Faculté des Sciences, Univ. de l'Etat Mons, Av. Maistriau 19, B-7000 Mons, Belgium

<sup>e</sup> Physics Laboratory, University of Athens, Solonos Str. 104, GR-10680 Athens, Greece

<sup>f</sup> Department of Physics, University of Bergen, Allégaten 55, NO-5007 Bergen, Norway

<sup>g</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Bologna and INFN, Via Irnerio 46, I-40126 Bologna, Italy

<sup>h</sup> Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, rua Xavier Sigaud 150, BR-22290 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<sup>i</sup> Depto. de Física, Pont. Univ. Católica, CP 38071 BR-22453 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<sup>j</sup> Inst. de Física, Univ. Estadual do Rio de Janeiro, rua São Francisco Xavier 524, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<sup>k</sup> Collège de France, Lab. de Physique Corpusculaire, IN2P3-CNRS, F-75231 Paris cedex 05, France

<sup>l</sup> CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

<sup>m</sup> Institut de Recherches Subatomiques, IN2P3-CNRS/ULP-BP20, F-67037 Strasbourg cedex, France

<sup>n</sup> Now at DESY-Zeuthen, Platanenallee 6, D-15735 Zeuthen, Germany

<sup>o</sup> Institute of Nuclear Physics, N.C.S.R. Demokritos, PO Box 60228, GR-15310 Athens, Greece

<sup>p</sup> FZU, Institute of Physics of the C.A.S. High Energy Physics Division, Na Slovance 2, CZ-180 40, Praha 8, Czech Republic

<sup>q</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova and INFN, Via Dodecaneso 33, I-16146 Genova, Italy

<sup>r</sup> Institut des Sciences Nucléaires, IN2P3-CNRS, Université de Grenoble 1, F-38026 Grenoble cedex, France

<sup>s</sup> Helsinki Institute of Physics and Department of Physical Sciences, PO Box 64, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

<sup>t</sup> Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Head Post Office, PO Box 79, RU-101 000 Moscow, Russian Federation

<sup>u</sup> Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Universität Karlsruhe, Postfach 6980, D-76128 Karlsruhe, Germany

<sup>v</sup> Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN, Ul. Radzikowskiego 152, PL-31142 Krakow, Poland

<sup>w</sup> Faculty of Physics and Nuclear Techniques, University of Mining and Metallurgy, PL-30055 Krakow, Poland

<sup>x</sup> Université de Paris-Sud, Lab. de l'Accélérateur Linéaire, IN2P3-CNRS, Bât. 200, F-91405 Orsay cedex, France

<sup>y</sup> School of Physics and Chemistry, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YB, UK

<sup>z</sup> LIP, IST, FCUL-Av. Elias Garcia, 14-1º, PT-1000 Lisboa Codex, Portugal

<sup>aa</sup> Department of Physics, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, UK

<sup>ab</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Kelvin Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

<sup>ac</sup> LPNHE, IN2P3-CNRS, Univ. Paris VI et VII, Tour 33 (RdC), 4 place Jussieu, F-75252 Paris cedex 05, France

<sup>ad</sup> Department of Physics, University of Lund, Sölvegatan 14, SE-223 63 Lund, Sweden

<sup>ae</sup> Université Claude Bernard de Lyon, IPNL, IN2P3-CNRS, F-69622 Villeurbanne cedex, France

<sup>af</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano and INFN-MILANO, Via Celoria 16, I-20133 Milan, Italy

<sup>ag</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano-Bicocca and INFN-MILANO, Piazza della Scienza 2, I-20126 Milan, Italy

<sup>ah</sup> IPNP of MFF, Charles University, Areal MFF, V Holesovickach 2, CZ-180 00, Praha 8, Czech Republic

<sup>ai</sup> NIKHEF, Postbus 41882, NL-1009 DB Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>aj</sup> National Technical University, Physics Department, Zografou Campus, GR-15773 Athens, Greece

<sup>ak</sup> Physics Department, University of Oslo, Blindern, NO-0316 Oslo, Norway

<sup>al</sup> Departamento de la Física, Universidad Oviedo, Avda. Calvo Sotelo s/n, E-33007 Oviedo, Spain

<sup>am</sup> Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK

- <sup>an</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Padova and INFN, Via Marzolo 8, I-35131 Padua, Italy  
<sup>ao</sup> Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot OX11 0QX, UK  
<sup>ap</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma II and INFN, Tor Vergata, I-00173 Rome, Italy  
<sup>aq</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma III and INFN, Via della Vasca Navale 84, I-00146 Rome, Italy  
<sup>ar</sup> DAPNIA/Service de Physique des Particules, CEA-Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette cedex, France  
<sup>as</sup> Instituto de Fisica de Cantabria (CSIC-UC), Avda. los Castros s/n, E-39006 Santander, Spain  
<sup>at</sup> Institute for High Energy Physics, Serpukov PO Box 35, Protvino, Moscow Region, Russian Federation  
<sup>au</sup> J. Stefan Institute, Jamova 39, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
<sup>av</sup> Laboratory for Astroparticle Physics, Nova Gorica Polytechnic, Kostanjevska 16a, SI-5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia  
<sup>aw</sup> Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
<sup>ax</sup> Fysikum, Stockholm University, Box 6730, SE-113 85 Stockholm, Sweden  
<sup>ay</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica Sperimentale, Università di Torino and INFN, Via P. Giuria 1, I-10125 Turin, Italy  
<sup>az</sup> INFN, Sezione di Torino and Dipartimento di Fisica Teorica, Università di Torino, Via Giuria 1, I-10125 Turin, Italy  
<sup>ba</sup> Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Trieste and INFN, Via A. Valerio 2, I-34127 Trieste, Italy  
<sup>bb</sup> Istituto di Fisica, Università di Udine, I-33100 Udine, Italy  
<sup>bc</sup> Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro, CP 68528 Cidade Univ., Ilha do Fundão, BR-21945-970 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
<sup>bd</sup> Department of Radiation Sciences, University of Uppsala, PO Box 535, SE-751 21 Uppsala, Sweden  
<sup>be</sup> IFIC, Valencia-CSIC, and D.F.A.M.N., U. de Valencia, Avda. Dr. Moliner 50, E-46100 Burjassot (Valencia), Spain  
<sup>bf</sup> Institut für Hochenergiephysik, Österr. Akad. d. Wissensch., Nikolsdorfergasse 18, A-1050 Vienna, Austria  
<sup>bg</sup> Institute Nuclear Studies and University of Warsaw, Ul. Hoza 69, PL-00681 Warsaw, Poland  
<sup>bh</sup> Fachbereich Physik, University of Wuppertal, Postfach 100 127, D-42097 Wuppertal, Germany

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## Abstract

The pseudoscalar meson  $\eta_b$  has been searched for in two-photon interactions at LEP II. The data sample corresponds to a total integrated luminosity of  $617 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  at centre-of-mass energies ranging from 161 to 209 GeV. Upper limits at a confidence level of 95% on the product  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$  are 190, 470 and  $660 \text{ eV}/c^2$  for the  $\eta_b$  decaying into 4, 6 and 8 charged particles, respectively.

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## 1. Introduction

Two-photon collisions are very useful in searching for the formation of pseudoscalar mesons with  $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$ . The high energy and high luminosity of LEP II are additional motivations to look for the  $b\bar{b}$  pseudoscalar quarkonium state  $\eta_b$  which has not yet been discovered [1,2].

Its mass,  $m_{\eta_b}$ , is estimated by several theoretical models [3]. It should lie below that of the  $\Upsilon$  vector meson ( $m_\Upsilon = 9.46 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ) and the mass shift,  $\Delta m = m_\Upsilon - m_{\eta_b}$ , is estimated to be in the range 10 to  $130 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ .

The cross-section for two-photon resonance  $R$  formation with  $C = +1$

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^- R$$

is given by [4]

$$\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- R) = \int \sigma_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \eta_b} dL_{\gamma\gamma}(W^2),$$

with the cross-section

$$\sigma_{\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \eta_b}(W^2, q_1^2, q_2^2) = 8\pi(2J_R + 1) \cdot \Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(R) \cdot F^2(q_1^2, q_2^2) \times \frac{\Gamma_R}{(W^2 - m_R^2)^2 + m_R^2 \Gamma_R^2}.$$

Here  $L_{\gamma\gamma}(W^2)$  is the two-photon luminosity function,  $W$  is the two-photon centre-of-mass energy,  $q_1^2$  and  $q_2^2$  are the squares of the virtual-photon four-momenta. The resonance  $R$  is characterised by its spin  $J_R$ , mass  $m_R$ , total width  $\Gamma_R$  and its two-photon partial width  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(R)$ . In “quasi-real” ( $q^2 \sim 0$ ) photon interactions, the form factor  $F^2(q_1^2, q_2^2)$  is constant and can be taken to be unity.

To compute the  $\eta_b$  production cross-section, the partial width  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b)$  must be known. Theoretical estimates [5] predict it to be in the range 260 to  $580 \text{ eV}/c^2$ . Setting  $m_{\eta_b}$  to  $9.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  leads to an expected production cross-section  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \eta_b)$  of 0.14 to 0.32 pb at  $\sqrt{s} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ .

Most of the observations of  $\eta_c$  decays have been to four charged particles, both pions and kaons [6]. Hence the  $\eta_b$  has been similarly searched for in 4, 6 and 8 charged particle final states. The expected backgrounds come from the  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  processes and the  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  channel.

From the ALEPH experiment, upper limits on  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$  [1] are:

$$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b \rightarrow 4 \text{ charged particles}) < 48 \text{ eV}/c^2,$$

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: stocchi@lal.in2p3.fr (A. Stocchi).

✉ Deceased.

$$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b \rightarrow 6 \text{ charged particles}) < 132 \text{ eV}/c^2.$$

The L3 experiment, looking for  $\eta_b$  in the decay modes  $\eta_b \rightarrow K^+ K^- \pi^0$ ,  $\pi^+ \pi^- \eta$ , 2, 4 and 6 charged particles (only or associated with one  $\pi^0$ ), observes 6 candidate events with 2.5 background events expected. This corresponds to a combined upper limit on  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$  [2]:

$$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b \rightarrow \text{analysed channels}) < 200 \text{ eV}/c^2.$$

In this Letter we report on the search for  $\eta_b$  in the reaction

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \gamma^* \gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^- \eta_b$$

with  $\eta_b$  decaying into the following final states:

$$\eta_b \rightarrow 4\pi^\pm(K^\pm),$$

$$\eta_b \rightarrow 6\pi^\pm(K^\pm),$$

$$\eta_b \rightarrow 8\pi^\pm(K^\pm).$$

Here the charged  $K$ 's in parentheses indicate that a pair of pions may be replaced by a pair of kaons with net zero strangeness.

## 2. Experimental procedure

The analysis presented here is based on the data taken with the DELPHI detector [7,8] in 1996–2000, covering a range of centre-of-mass energies from 161 to 209 GeV (average centre-of-mass energy: 195.7 GeV). The selected data set corresponds to the period when the Time Projection Chamber (TPC) was fully operational thus ensuring good particle reconstruction. This requirement reduces the integral luminosity for the analysis to  $617 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ .

For quasi-real photon interactions, the scattered  $e^\pm$  are emitted at very small polar angles. Hence there is no requirement on detecting them.

The  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^- \eta_b$  candidate events are selected by requiring final states with 4, 6 or 8 tracks with zero net charge. Charged-particle tracks in the detector are accepted if the following criteria are met:

- particle transverse momentum  $p_T > 150 \text{ MeV}/c$ ;
- impact parameter of a track transverse to the beam axis  $\Delta_{xy} < 0.5 \text{ cm}$ ;
- impact parameter of a track along the beam axis  $\Delta_z < 2 \text{ cm}$ ;
- polar angle of a track  $10^\circ < \theta < 170^\circ$ ;
- track length  $l > 30 \text{ cm}$ ;
- relative error of the track momentum  $\Delta p/p < 30\%$ .

No  $K_S^0$  reconstruction is attempted on each track pair. The identification of other neutral particles is made using calorimeter information. The calorimeter clusters which are not associated to charged-particle tracks are combined to form the signals from the neutral particles ( $\gamma$ ,  $\pi^0$ ,  $K_L^0$ ,  $n$ ). A minimum measured energy of 1 GeV for showers in the electromagnetic calorimeters and 2 GeV in the hadron calorimeters is required.

The selection of candidate events is achieved by applying the following criteria:

- no particle is identified as an electron or a muon by the standard lepton-identification algorithms [9];
- no particle is identified as a proton by the standard identification algorithm [9];
- there are no electromagnetic showers with energy  $E_{\text{shower}} > 1 \text{ GeV}$  or converted  $\gamma$ 's with energy  $E_\gamma > 0.2 \text{ GeV}$  in the event.

To ensure that no particle from the  $\eta_b$  decay has escaped detection, the square of the total transverse momentum of charged particles,  $(\sum \vec{p}_T)^2$ , is required to be small. The actual cut value is estimated from a Monte Carlo sample of  $\eta_b$  events produced in  $\gamma\gamma$  interactions. In this simulation the kinematical variables are generated using the algorithms developed by Krasemann et al. [10]. It is also assumed that the production amplitude factorizes into the quasi-real transverse photon flux and a co-variant amplitude describing both the  $\eta_b$  production and decay [11]. The  $\eta_b \rightarrow (4, 6, 8)$  charged-particle decay processes are assumed to be described by the phase-space momenta distribution. The generated events are passed through the standard DELPHI detector simulation and reconstruction programs [8]. The same selection criteria are applied on the simulated events as on the data. Finally, an event is accepted on the basis of the trigger efficiency. Parametrized for a single track, as a function of its transverse momentum  $p_T$ , it ranges from 20% for  $p_T < 0.5 \text{ GeV}/c$  to about 95% at  $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}/c$  [12]. Due to the high mass of the  $\eta_b$  resonant state and relatively large number of tracks in the final state, the overall trigger efficiency per event is about 93.6%, 94.5% and 94.6% for events with 4, 6 and 8 charged particles, respectively.

Fig. 1 shows, in the visible invariant-mass interval  $8 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < W_{\text{vis}} < 10 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , the fraction of remaining

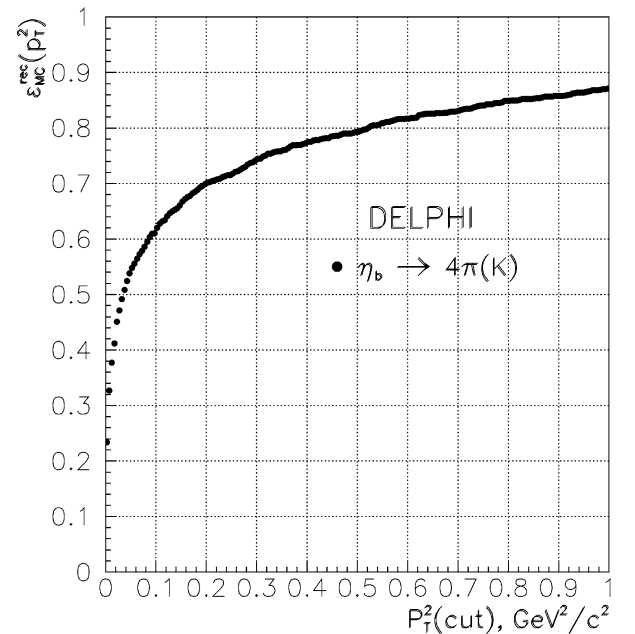


Fig. 1. Efficiency of selected  $\eta_b$  Monte Carlo events of the 4 charged-particle channel, as a function of the cut  $(\sum \vec{p}_T)^2 < P_T^2$ , in the  $\eta_b$  search region:  $8 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < W_{\text{vis}} < 10 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ .



events as a function of a cut,  $P_T^2$ , on  $(\sum \vec{p}_T)^2$ , for the 4 charged-particle channel. It decreases rapidly for  $P_T^2 < 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$ . Hence to preserve the statistics, 4, 6 charged-particle events with  $(\sum \vec{p}_T)^2$  up to  $0.08 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$  and 8 charged-particle events with  $(\sum \vec{p}_T)^2$  up to  $0.06 \text{ GeV}^2/c^2$  were kept.

The  $\pi/K$  identification is based on the TPC  $dE/dx$  and RICH [13] measurements which are used both separately and combined, in order to check the consistency, in a neural network-based algorithm [14]. In the  $\eta_b$  search region defined as  $8 \text{ GeV}/c^2 < W_{\text{vis}} < 10 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , the average  $K^\pm$  identification efficiency is about 54% and the purity is 82%. The misidentification of charged pions as kaons is about 1.5%. After application of the selection criteria and requiring  $W_{\text{vis}} > 5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , the 4, 6 and 8 charged-particle data samples contain 173, 328 and 113 events, respectively.

The main background comes from inclusive  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  channels. This background is estimated using a Monte Carlo sample generated with the PYTHIA 6.143 program [15].

The possible contamination of the  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\tau^+\tau^-$  process is given special attention. To reduce it in the  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow 4\pi$

channel where it is most important, events of topology 1–3 with respect to the hemispheres defined by the thrust axis computed in the  $4\pi$  centre-of-mass system and with an invariant mass, in each hemisphere, smaller than  $1.8 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ , are discarded. Only  $(1.0 \pm 0.3)\%$  of  $\eta_b$  events are eliminated by this cut.

The mass resolution in the search region has been estimated from the Monte Carlo sample of  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  interactions. It is about  $200 \text{ MeV}/c^2$  FWHM for all topologies, as shown on Fig. 2 for the 4 charged-particle events. We have chosen to search for a possible signal in  $\pm$  one mass resolution interval around the predicted mass of  $9.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ .

### 3. Results

The visible invariant-mass spectra of the selected events are presented in Fig. 3. When an event has an odd number of  $K^\pm$ , the kaon mass is assigned sequentially to the other particles of opposite charge and the  $W_{\text{vis}}$  mass is simply taken as the average of the various mass combinations. The resulting mass shift, averaged over the 4, 6 and 8 particle samples, is about  $120 \text{ MeV}/c^2$  in the  $\eta_b$  search region.

The distributions are well reproduced by the  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  Monte Carlo simulation. The  $\eta_b$  candidates are expected to show up in the  $9.2$  to  $9.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  mass region.

Table 1 gives the number of 4, 6 and 8 charged-particle events in the  $9.2$  to  $9.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  mass region, together with the number of expected background events computed taking into account the overall reconstruction and selection efficiency. Among the 3 observed  $\eta_b$  candidates only the event with 8 charged particles contains one identified kaon.

In the search for rare processes with a few observed events that may be compatible with background, an upper limit for the signal  $S$  can be derived considering a Poisson process with a background  $b$  and taking into account uncertainties in the background and efficiencies [16]

$$\text{CL} = 1 - \frac{\int g(b) f(\varepsilon) \sum_{k=0}^n P[k|(S\varepsilon + b)] d\varepsilon db}{\int g(b) \sum_{k=0}^n P[k|b] db}.$$

Here  $P(k|x)$  is the Poisson probability of  $k$  events being observed, when  $x$  are expected; CL is a confidence level,  $n$  is the number of observed events. The probability-density functions for the background  $g(b)$  and the efficiency  $f(\varepsilon)$  are assumed to be Gaussian and restricted to the range where  $b$  and  $\varepsilon$  are positive.

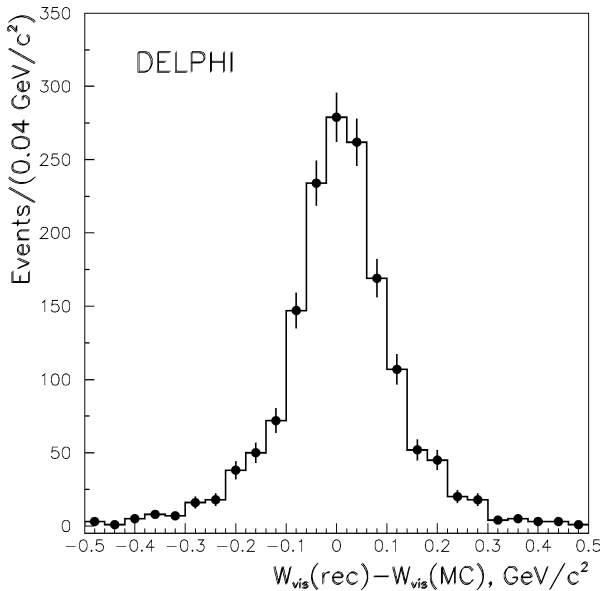


Fig. 2. Difference between reconstructed and generated  $W_{\text{vis}}$  values for the selected 4 charged-particle events from the Monte Carlo  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  sample, in the  $\eta_b$  search region.

Table 1  
Number of observed 4, 6 and 8 charged-particle  $\eta_b$  candidates ( $N_{\text{obs}}$ ), expected background events ( $N_{\text{bkg}}$ ), 95% C.L. upper limits for signal events ( $N_{\text{ev}}$ ), overall efficiency and 95% C.L. upper limits on  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$

	$\eta_b$ decay modes		
	4 ch. tracks ( $N_{\text{bkg}}$ )	6 ch. tracks ( $N_{\text{bkg}}$ )	8 ch. tracks ( $N_{\text{bkg}}$ )
$N_{\text{obs}} (9.2 < W_{\text{vis}} < 9.6 \text{ GeV}/c^2)$	0 (1.2)	2 (1.1)	1 (1.5)
$N_{\text{ev}}$ (95% C.L. upper limit)	3.9	5.7	4.1
Overall efficiency	5.9%	3.5%	1.8%
$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$ , $\text{eV}/c^2$ (95% C.L. upper limit)	190	470	660

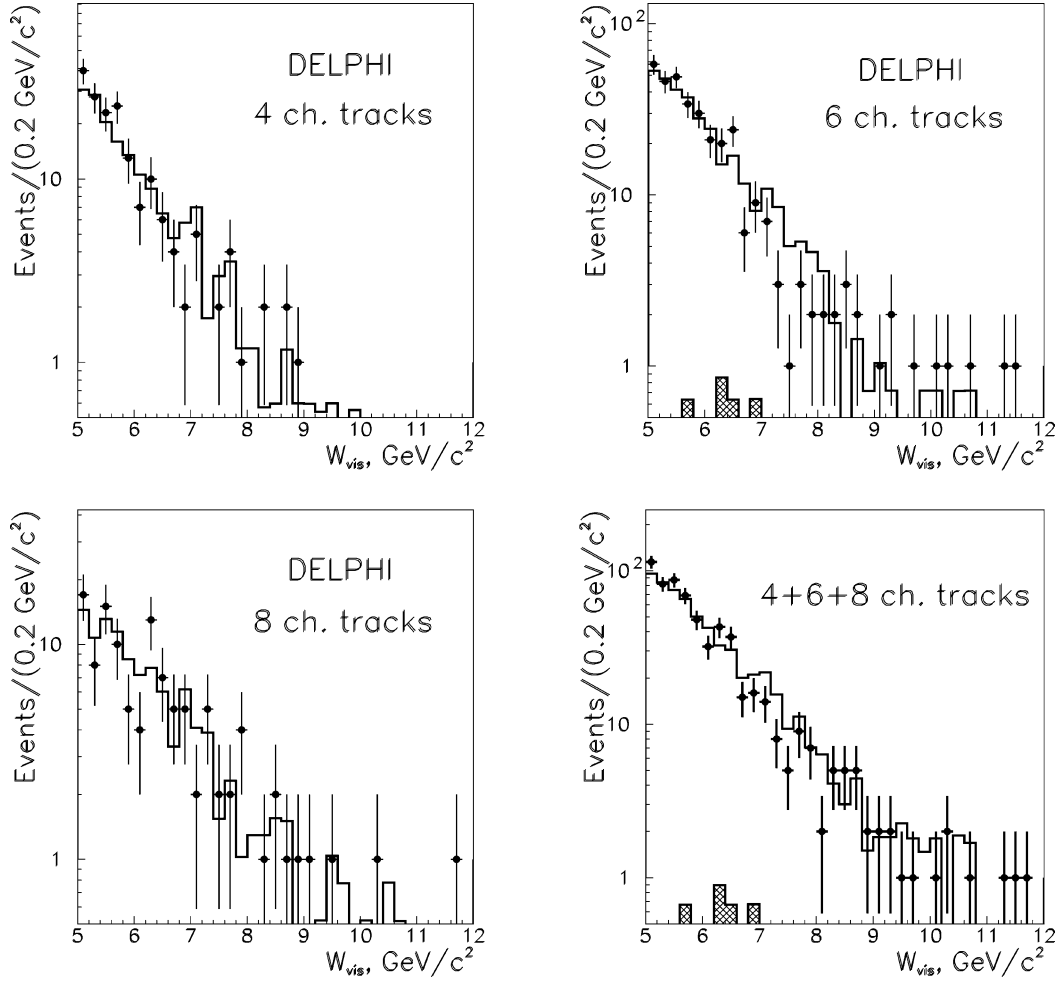


Fig. 3. Invariant-mass distributions of selected events for 4, 6 and 8 charged-particle final states. Points with error bars are from the data; histograms present the expected number of background events from the  $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  simulation; shaded histograms correspond to the expected  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-\tau^+\tau^-$  background.

Upper limits at the 95% confidence level were calculated for each channel and a limit on  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$  could then be derived. The values are quoted in Table 1.

We considered as main sources of systematic uncertainties: the statistical error of the background, the generator used for the  $\eta_b$  signal and the theoretical uncertainties of the  $\eta_b$  parameters. The limited statistics of our Monte Carlo event sample introduces relative uncertainties of 3%, 5%, 4% for the channels with 4, 6 and 8 charged particles, respectively. To appreciate the influence of the generators, we have used PHOT02 [1,17] which generates  $\eta_b$  events decaying into two gluon-jets. The relative differences in efficiency are of 24%, 11.4% and 6.1% for the 4, 6 and 8 charged particles channels. Varying the  $\eta_b$  mass within the range of 9.33–9.45  $\text{GeV}/c^2$  generates a relative uncertainty of 2.5% on  $N_{\text{ev}}$ , for each considered  $\eta_b$  decay channel. The three kinds of uncertainties were added quadratically to obtain the upper limits quoted in Table 1.

#### 4. Conclusions

The pseudoscalar meson  $\eta_b$  has been searched for through its decays to 4, 6 and 8 charged-particles in two-photon interactions at LEP II. The data sample corresponds to a total

integrated luminosity of 617  $\text{pb}^{-1}$  collected at centre-of-mass energies ranging from 161 to 209  $\text{GeV}$ .

Upper limits at a confidence level of 95% on the product  $\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}(\eta_b) \times \text{BR}(\eta_b)$  are 190, 470 and 660  $\text{eV}/c^2$  for the  $\eta_b \rightarrow (4, 6, 8)$  charged particle decays, respectively.

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